

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending in the above-identified application when last examined. Claims 1-5 and 7-21 stand rejected, and the rejection was made final. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(1), Applicant requests entry of the above-amendment to cancel rejected claims 1, 5, and 8-21 and amend objected-to claim 6 to complying with a requirement of form expressly set forth in the Final Office Action. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(2), Applicant also requests entry of the above amendment of claim 2.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,757,540 (Davis) in view of U.S. patent No. 5,995,153 (Moeller). The above amendment cancels claims 1, 5, 9-12, and 16-20 and amends claim 2 so that claims 2 and 3 now depend from objected-to claim 6. Claims 2 and 3 are now patentable for at least the reasons set forth to show that claim 6 is patentable.

Applicants note that claim 6 is listed among the rejected claims on page 7 of the Final Office Action. However, the Final Office Action on page 9 objects to claim 6 and indicates that claim 6 would be allowable if amended to independent form. Applicants thus believe that inclusion of claim 6 in the list of rejected claims on page 7 is a typographical error.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 4, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Davis in view of Moeller and further in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0065569 (Matoba). Claims 13 and 14 are canceled. In view of the amendment of claim 2, claim 4 now depends from objected-to claim 6 and is patentable for at least the reasons that claim 6 is patentable. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 7, 8, 15, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Davis in view of Moeller and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,940,573 (Beckwith). Claims 8, 15, and 21 are canceled. Claim 7 depends from objected-to claim 6 and is patentable for at least the reasons that claim 6 is patentable. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 6 was objected to as depending from a rejected claim but was indicated allowable if amended to independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 6 is amended to independent form including the limitations of base claim 1. In view of the above amendment, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 6.

In summary, claims 1-21 were pending in the application, and claims 1-5 and 7-21 are under final rejection. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.116, this response cancels rejected claims 1, 5, and 8-21 and amends claims 2 and 6. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the final rejection and allowance of the application including claims 2-4, 6, and 7.

Please contact the undersigned attorney at (408) 927-6700 if there are any questions concerning the application or this document.

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Respectfully submitted,



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